

THE
DISORDERS
OF
ASSETT,
A
NOVEL.

Done out of *French*.

L O N D O N,

Printed for John Newton at the Three
Bridgeman over against the Inner
Temple Gate, in Fleet-street. 1688.

case T1525, D 63

The Translators

P R E F A C E TO THE R E A D E R.

THE Author of that little French Novel (*whereof this is a Translation*) in his Preface to the Reader, does assure him, that there is not any one Character in the whole Piece, which was drawn by the Life; and that he design'd it no otherwise then as a general Representation of those

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many and great Extravagancies, tle
which Bassett had occasion L
in France, and which were to
the Grounds of a late Edict, si
whereby not only that, but some p
other Games of the like Na- C
ture, were publickly forbid. ll

Now if he cou'd say so, how
much more may the Translator;
who, being an absolute Stranger
to this Game, as well as all o=br/>thers, cannot reasonably be
thought to have design'd this as
a Reflection upon any Person
whatever, especially since he
did not think fit to lay the Scene
in England. The Pastime of
a few idle Hours, and the de-
sire of preserving that very lit-
tle

tle smattering in the French
Language which he can pretend
to, was all the Inducement or De-
sign he had in undertaking this
present Translation; wherein
(tho' he never intended it as a
literal one,) there are but very
few places, and those too little
material, that vary from the Ori-
ginal.

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done it. It is my opinion
that you have done well.
I am sending you a
copy of the letter I wrote
to Mr. [unclear] in which
I express my views on
the subject. You will see
that I am in full agreement
with you. I hope you will
not be disappointed in me.
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THE
DISORDERS
OF
BASSETT.

ONE Day at Madam Gendrill's at Bassett, he that kept the Bank taillied with the greatest Fortune in the World; he never lost so much as one *Septet-le-va*, and seldom the *Paroli*, insomuch that he broke all the Setters; some were complaining and sighing, others crying, fretting, and swearing; every one,

one, in fine, had some particular way or other to express the great Concern he was in ; amongst whom Madam *Landroze* bore no small part, she having been a considerable loser ; and that which vex'd her most, was to lose the same Card four times in one Deal. The Marquiss of *Roziers*, who was in Love with her, being extreamly afflicted to see her so concern'd, Madam, said he, set the rest of your Money upon the Knavε, I believe 'twill prove a good Card, having lost twice already. You have never yet been lucky to me, Sir, said she, yet I'll venture for once ; the Knavε won a *Sonica*. Pray Madam, said the Marquiss, make the Paroli upon the same Card. Once more, Sir, said she, I must needs tell you, you were not

not born to bring me good Luck,
 yet however I'll venture; the
 Knave won again. Now, Sir,
 said she, upon what Card shall
 we make the *Sept-et-le-va*? Ma-
 dam, replyed the Marquis, ve-
 ry coldly, I was never born to
 bring you good Luck, therefore
 be pleas'd to chuse one your
 self. Pray, Sir, said she, think
 of a Card quickly. Madam,
 said the Marquis, very heavily,
 you will certainly lose it; she
 made the *Sept-et-le-va* upon the
 Ace, the Ace lost; whereupon
 she rose up on a sudden, tore
 the Ace, and all her Book; and
 throwing the Pieces at the Mar-
 quis, I shou'd think it strange,
 said she to him, in an angry
 and disdainful way, if in all my
 Life, I shou'd thrive in any one
 thing, wherein I have to do with
 you; believe me, we two were

not

not born but to be a Plague to each other. The Marquiss tryed to pacifie her, and proffer'd her his Hand to wait on her home; but she refused it very Scornfully, without so much as taking the least notice of him. This Carriage of hers troubled him extreamly, and threw him into a deep Melancholy, which his Friend the Count *de Charlois* having perceiv'd, rose from Buffett, and went away with him in his Coach.

When soon after, as the Marquess was lolling very thoughtfully, the Count turning that way, and looking stedfastly upon him, said to him, Unhappy Wretch that thou art, to have a concern for one who does so little deserve it; a silly Coquette creature, whom none but your self wou'd ever have thought of. What do you

you find in her , continu'd he,
 that is taking ? She is lean , she
 has a wide Mouth . What , said
 the Marquiss , intetrupting him ,
 do I see in her that is taking ?
 Who ever saw more lovely and
 charming blew Eyes then hers
 are ? Was there ever a clearer and
 a more delicate Complexion , a
 whiter and more even sett of
 Teeth , a better proportion'd Nose ,
 or a more exact and easie shape
 then she has ? Call you those
 lovely and charming Eyes , re-
 ply'd the Count , which are so
 sunk into her Head ; or that Com-
 plexion delicate and clear , which
 sometimes is so hideous yellow ?
 Her Nose is inclin'd to red , or
 looks blewifh at the best : If her
 Teeth are white and even , 'tis that
 she uses Opiate Powders , and the
 File so often . Is that to be exactly
 and easily shap'd , to have such

an

an aukard gate as she has? Her Neck, I must confess is white ; but yet, were it not for the Taylor, 'tis such a one as no body wou'd see it. She's a Wit 'tis true, but a very dangerous, and ill-natur'd one. If any Woman is Handsome, Airy, or any ways accomplish'd, she can't indure her, but in all Companies where e're she comes, is raising a thousand spiteful Stories of her. She hates all Woman-kind ; but then, to make amends, she's in love with all Mankind : And I believe you are the only Man she ever used ill ; and that for no other reason, but because you have too much worth in you ; a thing no ways agreeable to her humour. For my part I declare, if heretofore I have had any inclination for her, it has been a very slight one, and such as never went near to my Heart.

Heart. Count said the Marquis,
I me told you two are not very
well together. Troth reply'd
the Count, very briskly, because
I me grown weary of her. She's
a strange humour'd Woman, and
'tis almost impossible to please
her. When I us'd to visit her I
look'd as thin and lean as a Skele-
ton. What I now tell you, is not
out of any spleen to her, but a
real concern I have to see you so
desperately ingaged, and a desire
to cure you of so unreasonable
and so unfortunate a Paffion. A-
las ! dear Count , reply'd the
Marquis ; little do you know
my heart in this matter ; I am
not my own Master as you think ;
my reason is quite given up, and
whatever Difficulties and Argu-
ments she opposes to my Paffion,
serve but to make her more abso-
lutely imperious. Nay , what
way

way is there in the World, that I have not tryed to cure my self of the Passion I have for Madam *Landroze*; and yet all, alas! has serv'd only to make me more desperately in love with her. How often have I, quite disheartn'd by her flights, with Tears in my Eyes, said to her, Farewel Madam, and for ever farewell? Once I took up a resolution never to see her more: but scarce cou'd I in pain, linger out two whole days in that mind, but I was forc'd to take up a new one. I am not, I wou'd then say, sufficiently reveng'd of her in not seeing her any more; 'twere fit she shou'd see her self slighted, and me prefer another before her.

I went to Mass to the *Petits Capucins*, where I knew she us'd to go every day. I will salute her, thought I, but it shall be with that

that coldness, and indifference, that she shall soon perceive how little I value her ; and if I show any Concern or Complaisance for any body, it shall be for Madam *Rocheron* her mortal Enemy. ah ! thought I, so shall I be sufficiently reveng'd. But oh ! the moment I spy'd her out in the Church, I forgot all my former Resolutions ; and instead of a cold and a disdainful Behaviour, I saluted her with all the submissive and languishing Looks imaginable.

As I was discoursing with Madam *Rocheron*, I observ'd a Shagreen in Madam *Landroze's* Looks : immediately, forgetting the Design that brought me thither, I flew away in a great hurry, and confusion, without being able to beg her Pardon. When I came home, reflecting upon my weakness

ness ; fly, fly, said I, every place where Madam *Landroze* is : there is nothing but absence can cure me. The Court was at *Fontainbleau*. I left *Paris*, and went thither, where I sought out for a hundred Pastimes, and Diversions, to make me forget her, Walking, Gaming, Treating and Gallanting the Ladies, was the constant business of the day. Yet wou'd you wonder to see how this cruel Passion did slyly shuttle it self into the midst of all my Diversions. I had not gone an hundred Yards iunto the Wood at *Fontainbleau*, when falling into a deep Melancholy, my Head ran of nothing but Madam *Landroze*, and I wish'd to meet her there, that I might reproach her with Ingratitude. When ever I entertain'd any of the Ladies with any piece of Gallantry, I insensiblē

bly address'd my self to her, who had most of the Air of Madam Landroze. At *Bassett*, at the Queen's, or any where else, when I have lost a *Paroli* or *Septet-le-va*; alas ! said I to my self, Can so unfortunate a Creature as I am, ever hope to have good luck ; when ever I have won, these are not the Joys, thought I, that can make me happy. In the midst of great Dainties, the delicate Flavour of the richest Wines imaginable, is no otherwise pleasant to me, than as it serves to amuze me with the vain Thoughts of what a concern she will be in to have lost me, and of being capable by that means to make her sensible of the loss.

All the while the Court was at *Fontainbleau*, I spent my time so miserably as I tell you ; and by this

this way of living. I was grown so moap'd, and so fall'n away, that no body cou'd have known me. Being sensible at last, that none of these Remedies were sufficient to cure me ; I resolv'd to return to *Paris*, and throwing my self at her Feet, to ask her Pardon. But after I had given her a faithful Account how dismally I spent my time at *Fontainbleau* ; wou'd you believe what an Answer this Ungrateful Creature made me ? Monsieur Marquiss said she, you have made good use of the time you spent in reading Romances, and have an admirable way of representing the Characters of those great Heroes. Oh cruel Creature ! was ever the like said ? Faith Marquiss, said the Count very briskly, shall I tell you my mind plainly ; you are a meer Novice in this Affair. Alas, what good can

can you hope to make of such Florid Discourses : the Ladies of this Age , (especially such as Madam *Landroze*) are for something more substantial , and to the purpose. Are you in Love with a Woman , and wou'd you that she shou'd return it ? find out what she takes most delight in , and make your Court to her that way. Is she Musically given ? entertain her with publick Musick-meetings , and treat her often at the *Opera*. If she loves Play , go halfs with her , and be sure never to let her want Money. Do's she love fine Cloaths , and to be always well dress'd ? Present her with the Richest , and most fashionable Silks you can meet with. If she loves to eat well , make her frequent entertainments ; and , as often as may

may be ; let 'em be given out of Town ; and then if at any time, you find her in better humour, and more transported then ordinary , make use of the opportunity ; bear up to her briskly , and be not frighted with the shew of a forc'd Modesty : if she's angry beg her Pardon, and lay the blame upon the violence of your Passion : Women are always easie to forgive Affronts of that nature : As soon as ever you are reconcil'd, be not afraid, but at her again, and try your Fortune three or four times more ; till at last, take my word for't, you'll find that Happy and Critical Minute you look for. Count reply'd the Marquis, you talk like an Errant Debauchee ; Know you not, that I naturally hate Debauchery, and desire nothing further of Madam *Landroze*, then

then to make my self Master of her Heart ? Alas ! Poor Young Man, said the Count, a Woman's Senses and Affections always go together ; So that whoever pleases the former, may be sure not to miss of the latter. Well, well, Count, reply'd the Marquis, you, that pretend to be so bold, how wou'd you, were you in my place, behave your self before Madam *Landroze* ? How ? said the Count, very easily : She loves Play, and particularly *Bassett* ; keep a Bank at her House, do you tailliee, and let her be your Croupier. I am acquainted with the Chevalier *Briere*, he is a cunning profess'd Gamester, knows all the Gamesters about *Paris*, and wou'd be glad with all his Heart to go in the Bank : He will bring you as many Gamesters as you desire. Madam

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Landroze is Covetous , and the advantage the Bank has over the Setters, is so great, that at the long run, you will infallibly be a considerable winner. This is the way you must take to win her Heart. By this means you will have an opportunity of seeing her ev'ry day, and of rallying with her upon all those who lose their Money. As for the Chevalier , 'tis no matter whether he knows the Intrigue or no ; for he has an admirable way of making Discoveries. In fine , you will be allow'd a great freedom , and have a thousand little secrets told you ; and without jesting, the Money she will win in going with you , will make you appear more amiable in her sight, and she consequently more sensible of the Passion you have for her. Ah ! Count, reply'd

reply'd the Marquiss, what a Proposal have you made me, I have so great a Passion for Madam *Landroze*, that I cannot endure the very thoughts of it ; to keep a Bank at her house, and make it a publick Gameing Ordinary, and Rendevouze for all sorts of People, where every Rake-helly Sharper of the Town, and common Strumpet, is Hail-fellow-well-met with Persons of the best Reputation and Quality, to expose her every Minute to a thousand Foolleries, and impertinent Disputes and Quarrels : Fie ! fie ! 'tis a thing I can't endure to think of. Troth, reply'd the Count, 'tis pleasant to see how wonderful nice, and tender you are of Madam *Landroze's* Reputation ; when, at this very instant, People of the best Quality in all *Paris*, make no scruple

of having *Bassett* at their Houses; and I know some of very good Fashion, that neither care for *Bassett*, or any other sort of Gameing, and yet are desirous to have it at their Houses for the Profit of the Card-money ; and if you'll do so for her, take my Word for't she'll never scruple it. Will you hold an hundred Pounds, continued the Count, that she does not agree to't, when you have once convinc'd her that there's Money to be got by't ? All Women are Covetous, and she the most in the World. In fine, the Count made it so plain and clear to the Marquis before he left him, that he went away with a Resolution of setting up a Bank at Madam *Landroze's*

The next Morning the Marquis of *Rozier's* went to her Level,

Levee, where having diverted the peevish humour she was in (as being but just up) he began to demonstrate to her how disadvantageous a Game Bassett was to the Setters, and how certainly advantageous to them that keep the Bank, when there were a great many that play'd. That at *Venice*, where Bassett was first found out, the *Venetians* Farmed the sole Power and Right of keeping the Bank, at Fifty or Sixty thousand Crowns a year, which cou'd never turn to Account, were not the advantages which the Bank has infinitely great, as was easie to be comprehended; for Example, said he, there are Thirteen different Cards; suppose then, that the Gamesters set upon the Thirteen different Cards, it must necessarily follow, that the last Card but

one is clear Gains to the Bank, in that the Dealer cannot loose the last Card, which is a *ne va pas*; besides, if all the Twelve Cards go every Deal, let 'em loose or win, one Card or other of the Thirteen will be fass'd; Judge therefore how great an advantage the Bank has. I must confess it does not so happen, that they set upon the Thirteen different Cards every Deal, and that the Cards are not always well mixt, but that sometimes Two or Three of a sort shall come together, and at other times the Dealer's Card does not come till the Six last *Taillieès*; yet take it one time with another, the Bank has certainly a very great advantage; these Reasons, together with the Reflection she made, upon how much she had lost at that Game, made her resolve

solve for the future to leave it off. The Marquis finding her in a right Temper for his design, propos'd to her to have *Basset* at her House, that she shou'd keep the Bank, recommending to her the *Chevalier Brierie*, as one who wou'd be glad to have a share in it, as a Man of a general Acquaintance in *Paris*, and one who wou'd bring 'em Gamesters enough. Madam *Landroze* lik'd the Motion, and readily agreed to it; and, after a little pause, she hinted to the Marquis that with her late losses she was quite run out of her Money, yet that there was a Merchant she us'd to deal with, who upon some Allowance, and defalcation for Interest, wou'd accept of an Assignment upon one of her Tenants, and advance her the next Years Rent upon it.

The Marquis offer'd to lay down the Money, and make a Bank for her ; which she refus'd, but borrow'd Three hundred *Louis d'ors* of her Merchant, to which the Marquis put Three hundred more, and the Chevalier as many ; so that they made up a Bank of Nine hundred *Louis d'ors*. What with the pains the Chevalier took to divulge it, and the Reputation of the Persons concern'd, it was quickly known all the Town over ; Gamesters came from all parts, and the very second time they Dealt, there was so great a Crowd, that notwithstanding the Table held above Thirty, there were several that cou'd get no room. The Marquis taillied, and Madam *Londroze*, and the Chevalier croupied. Sure nothing could be more Entertaining, than to see

see a Number of People setting round a great Table, some looking pale, some red, some ready to split themselves with laughing, others swearing, storming, fretting, and making a hundred several Grimaces : Sometimes you shou'd see a young Heir, yet in deep Mourning for his Father, at one setting play away all that the good Old Gentleman had been scraping up for three or four years together ; the Pay-master of the Army the poor Soldiers Pay ; Abbots their yearly Revenues ; Officers their Pay ; the new married Man his Wifes Portion ; the Magistrate his Bribes ; and married Women loose great Sums of Money, just before taken up upon their Necklaces and Jewels. Now and then you shou'd see some People, having lost all, rise up

and go away after a very desperate manner, and of a sudden return with their Pockets full of *Louis d'ors*; the purchase Money of some Plate, or Suit of Hangings just expos'd to Sale: In fine, there was a great Rendevouze and Medly of all sorts of People; the young Heiress with the old Widow, the grave Statesman with the fluttering Courtier, the infamous Strumpet with the Ladies of Honour, and the Upstart Valet de Chambre with his late Lord and Master; a Scene then which nothing can be more ridiculously Pleasant: One time there were two Citizens Wives, who having been considerable loafers, went home twice for fresh Recruits; and having at length lost all they had, went away with Tears in their Eyes. The Chevalier

Chevalier perceiving what a talking they were in, and having a great Curiosity to hear what they said, went close after 'em in the Dark, and over-heard one saying to the other, What shall we do? Oh! Unfortunate Creatures ! for my part, I am grown desperate, and wish to dye: you see Cousin, continued she, you must no longer make a Difficulty of giving up your Daughter to the Farmer general of the Revenues, he has asfur'd me you shall never want Money, and 'tis the last Shift we can make; when he has done with her himself, he'll marry her off to one of his under Officers, or if he should not, yet are there many others who knowing nothing of the Matter, would be glad of her: The Men are meer Block-heads

in that Point, and my Husband, poor Man, who fancies himself a Conjuror, knows no more of that matter than another Man. In the mean time one of the Footmen coming with a Candle, the Chevalier stole away, as fearing to be seen. Another time a young Lady betwixt Seventeen and Eighteen, handsom and well dress'd, being at play, and having very bad luck, the Chevalier over-saw her Card several times ; which Madam *Landroze* taking notice of, watch'd it the more narrowly ; at last, after the loss of Two and twenty *Louis d'ors*, she went away very discontentedly ; whereupon the Chevalier following her, over-heard an Old Woman saying to her, Have not I often warn'd you of the danger of Play ? What think you will your Mother say when she

she sees you without the Petty-coat ? Were not the Two and twenty *Loüis d'ors*, she gave you, enough to have bought one, but you must play 'em away in hopes to get more, that you might have a Richer ? You have done finely, han't you ? for my part I look for nothing less than being turn'd out of Doors. Immediately the Chevalier addressing himself to the young Lady, told her he had over-heard their Discourse, assuring her how much troubled he was at her loss, it being no fault of his that she had not won, and that her Card had not been over seen every time. At first the young Lady blush'd, but the Chevalier proferr'd to lend her some Money with so much Importance, - that, notwithstanding the many refusals she made, he at last in

a manner forc'd her to accept it. He waited upon her to a Shop where they laid out Three and thirty *Loüis d'ors* upon a Pety-coat. He was with her a great while all alone. The next day she was engaged at *Bassett*, and so for several days together. She never was without Money. Madam *Landroze*, said the young Lady, was much oblig'd to the Chevalier, for supplying her so constantly with Money, and that she had found out the Mystery by their oagling each other: But certain it is, that about Two or Three Months afterwards, there being a great deal of Company, she was miss'd on a sudden; and that one day her Woman, as she was unlacing her, told her plainly she never saw her Breast so high. She is slipt out of Town, and 'tis given out she

she is gone into a Monastery. Another time, a Friend of the Chevalier's had just set his Foot into the Room where they were Dealing, when of a sudden he drew back to avoid being seen ; the Chevalier made after him, and pressed him to come in ; he desir'd to be excused, but the Chevalier being very earnest with him to know the Reason his Friend ask'd him, Did you, said he, mind the Old Gentleman that sat next you ? yes, reply'd the Chevalier ; know then, said he, that he is worth Eight hundred thousand *Livres*, and has three Daughters to marry, that he goes about to the *Bassett* Tables only to take notice who comes there, and if he finds any one that courts any of his Daughters at play he positively commands her, to whom

whom the Court is made, to break off with her Lover, and forbid him the House, protesting that no *Bassett*-player shall ever marry any Daughter of his. Now I being very well with the Eldest, and in no small hopes of getting her, she gave me this Advice, which I'm resolv'd to follow. The Chevalier being satisfied with this Reason, and going back into the *Bassett* Room, fell a rallying so severely upon the Old Gentleman, that he oblig'd him to quit the Room, as looking upon him to be one that wou'd hinder their Custom.

Nothing can be a stronger Instance, to how great Extravagances the love of *Bassett* may subject one, than what hapen'd to the young Count de *Angluron*; he was a Friend of the Chevalier's

lier's, who meeting him one day in Town, ask'd him how chanc't he, that was so great a lover of Play, had now quite left it off: The young Count told him, he was now wholly taken up another way; for that he was fallen desperately in Love with one of the most Beautiful Creatures in all *France*, of whom he was likewise not a little belov'd; that his Passion for her had perfectly cur'd him of that for Play. The Chevalier told him there was *Bassett* at Madam *Landrozes*, whether People of the best Fashion in Town did daily resort, and invited him to it, and to bring his Mistress along with him.

Next day the Count and his Mistress, the Marquiss of *Roziers* and the Chevalier, were at Madam *Landroze's* very merry together;

together ; but being too soon to begin to Deal, they fell into a Discourse about play. Madam *Landroze* said, He that was given to play cou'd never make a good Lover, or be very observant to his Mistress. The Marquis of *Roziers* was of Opinion one might easily disengage himself from the love of play : In answer to which, the Chevalier in a rallying way said, that whoever has once plac'd his Affections upon play, can never wean himself from it, as long as he lives. The Count de *Angluron* was for maintaining the contrary, and looking languishing upon his Mistress, said, That from his own Experience he cou'd prove, that Love was an infallible cure for any Inclination to play. And for my part, reply'd his fair Mistress, I think any Woman very ingrateful that can't

can't be of the same Mind. The Chevalier, for the Jest sake, still persisted in it, that no Man who loves *Bassett* can ever leave it off for a Mistress; a Mistress, said he, may perhaps requite her Lover for the many Torments she makes him endure; but can she at any time give him a *Paroli*, a *Sept*, a *Quinze*, or a *Trent-et-le-va*? No! no! never was any Ladies favour of that Consequence. By this time the Company being come, they gave over the Discourse; and the Marquiss of *Roziers* began to Tailliée: Do but observe now what hapen'd to the Count *de Angluron*; this Man, whom Love had so well cur'd of any desire of play, at first play'd but very little, and was taken up rather in watching his Mistresses Eyes, than his own Cards; he lost

lost 'em every one ; then being heated, and in hopes his luck might turn, he set as much upon a Card at one time, as he had lost since he first began to play. He lost it ; whereupon he doubl'd and doubl'd on, loosing some Cards, and winning others ; of every Card that he won, he made the *Paroli* and a *Sept-et-le-va*, which he still lost ; so that after this manner he had plaid off One hundred and fifty *Louis d'ors*. He went out, and sent for the Chevalier into the next Room, where he profer'd to sell him his Coach and Horses. The Chevalier thought it a good Bargain, and bought 'em : This Money was as little lucky to the Count, for he soon lost it. A second time he sent for the Chevalier out into the next Room, to sell him his Mistresses Diamond

Diamond Clasps. The Chevalier at first was unwilling, but the Count, as also his Mistress, in complaisance to him, did so press and importune him to it, that at last the Chevalier bought the Diamond Clasps. That Money lost, he sold the Pearl Necklace too, as little lucky as the rest. The Count *de Angluron* grown desperate with all these losses, taking the Chevalier aside, pray'd him to let him have some Money upon his Note, protesting solemnly he wou'd repay it in two or three days : The Chevalier seem'd not to mind him, having made an Oath never more to lend a Farthing without a Pawn, by reason of some disputes he had lately had with some of his best Friends upon the like occasion. Well, said the Count, in a great concern,

cern, will you lend it me if I
 pawn to you the thing of the
 World I value most, and which
 I wou'd Redeem at the expence
 of my Life; 'tis that Beautiful
 Creature that came along with
 me, I will leave her in your
 hands, till such time as I have
 repay'd you to a Farthing of
 what I shall borrow; doubt not,
 my dear Chevalier, but some
 time before the end of the Week
 you shall have your Money, and
 in the mean time I shall take it
 as the greatest Obligation imagi-
 nable. The Chevalier surprized
 to hear of such a kind of Pawn,
 and calling to mind that he had
 but just before heard the Count
 maintain, that Love was an In-
 fallible cure for any Inclination
 to play, was so pleas'd with
 this Passage, that 'twas as much
 as he cou'd do to forbear laugh-
 ing

ing out right. He told the Count very coldly, that he cou'd not take that Pawn, for what, said he, wou'd you have me do with that young Woman ? What would I have you do with her, replyed the Count ? Alas ! what shou'd one do with so precious a Pawn ? What shou'd one do ? do by her like a Man of Honour ; whereupon the Chevalier desir'd him to think no more on't. Go then, said the Count, pulling his Hat over his Eyes, and turning short from him, you have dealt unworthily by me, and I'll declare it to all the World, you don't play like a Gentleman ; so flung out of doors, without so much as thinking of his Mistress, who all this while was seeing 'em play at *Basset*, and forc'd to walk home on foot, the Coach and

and Horses having been not long before sold and deliver'd up.

There were several other no less pleasant Passages at this *Bassett-Bank*, which I purposely forbear to take notice of, that I may come to speak of the Passion which the Marquis of *Roziers* had for Madam *Landroze*. The Count *de Charlois* hearing of the vast Sums of Money which this Bank had won, had a Curiosity to know how well the Marquis of *Roziers* had succeeded in the advice he gave him to gain Madam *Landrozes* Heart ; and to that end he made him a Visit. She is wonderfully pleas'd , said the Marquis, and is often counting over the great gains she has made by the Bank. She's always in good Humour, and when we

we are by our selves, we rallye upon those whose Money we win ; but as for what Advances I have made, towards the Mastery of her Heart, they are little more than what I made the very first day. Do not you Marquiss, said the Count, make the right use of her being in good Humour, and wait for the Critical Minute ? Believe me, reply'd the Marquiss , I loose nothing for want of assurance, but she puts me by, and rebukes me with so much Indignation, that I often begin to despair. Is it, said she, once to me, because I sometimes vouchsafe you my Company at play, that therefore you presume to take this Liberty ? Very fine ! indeed Monsieur Marquiss, that is not like to be the Price of our Bank. Therefore Count, continued the Marquiss,

Marquis, to deal plainly with you, yours has fail'd, so that I must now think of some other way. Well, reply'd the Count, I'll tell you one, that can't possibly fail; Contrive all you can to loose, and quite ruin the Bank; put Madam *Landroze* upon borrowing of every body, upon pawning all her Jewels and Moveables; she's extravagant, and so excessively fond of Play, that rather then want Money for *Bassett*, there is not any thing she won't sell, pawn, or promise to do: I'll undertake, that when she's under such Circumstances, she'll be no longer reserv'd to you, and 'twill be in your own power to make your self Happy. But how, said the Marquis, interrupting him, do you mean by ruining our Bank, and what way shou'd I do it?

I mean, reply'd the Count, that you shall agree with some of your Friends, to come and play deep, while you being to deal, shall so shuffle the Cards, as that they may win; then which nothing can be more easie, let them make the *Paroli*, the *Sept*, and *Quinze et leva*, and in a short time, take my Word for't they'll break the Bank, Madam. *Landroze* shall borrow of every body, pawn all she can rap and rend for Money to make a new one, which shall have as ill success as the former; and never believe me more, if when you have once reduc'd her to that Condition, you do not find her more Affable and Courteous; if you are unwilling to intrust a Secret of this Nature to any of your own Friends, I'll help you to some fit Persons, and en-

gage the Chevalier to joyn with
 you in this thing ; for he's a
 Man no ways nice in these
 Matters, provided he suffer not
 in point of Interest. Ah !
 Count, reply'd the Marquis very
 hastily, what a Proposal have
 you made me ? I play Crimp ?
 I that so detest all such knavish
 Practises ? I cheat Madam *Lan-*
droze, a Person I doat on above
 all things in this World ? Think
 you I can be so hard-hearted,
 as to bear up against those Af-
 flictions, which the being redu-
 ced to such Extremities must
 inevitably throw her into ? No,
 no ! Count, you don't know me ;
 and let me assure you, I had ra-
 ther despair of ever obtaining any
 favour from her, than purchase
 it that rate. Faith Marquis,
 reply'd the Count, you mistake
 me quite, I propose to you the
 cheating

cheating Madam *Landroze*? I never had any such Thought in my Head, and I'm sorry, that as you'r my Friend, you should know me no better; my meaning is, that you shou'd restore her all the Money she looses; but that being reduc'd to such streights, she might think she owes all to you which you return to her, and so can refuse you nothing: Don't be apprehensive of how great a concern she may be in, but think rather how highly she will look upon her self to be oblig'd, and what Acknowledgments thereof she will make to you; this, in my Judgment, is the only way to prove successful in your Amour; now chuse you whether you'll make use on't. The Marquis of *Roziers* having better consider'd of the Proposal, and the

Reasons wherewith the Count de *Charlois* had enforc'd it, approved of it very well. The Persons who were to manage it came to the Marquis to receive their Instructions ; the Chevalier being assur'd by the Count, that there was nothing intended but a piece of Gallantry, and that Madam *Landroze* shou'd have her Money again, readily assented to it : As for the Marquis, all his Business was practicing to shuffle the Cards, and to remember what the Count had taught him. They agreed amongst themselves what Cards shou'd win, and the Marquis's Valet de Chambre, who waited at the *Bassett* Table, and to whom it belong'd to bring his Master the Cards when he dealt, had his Lesson given him how to place 'em :

In

In fine, matters were so well manag'd, that at the third setting down, the Bank was quite broke, and the Persons design'd won all the Money. Madam Landroze immediately pawn'd all her Jewels, Plate, Furniture, and whatever else she cou'd make Money of to set up a new Bank, which held out not above four settings. The next Day after this second Bank was broke, the Marquis made her a Visit about the time they us'd to begin play. He found her lying in a careless Posture upon a Palate-Bed, leaning upon her Elbow, in such a melancholy Fit, that he hardly knew her : He sat himself down in an Elbow Chair that stood by the Bed side, and having for some time fix'd his Eyes languishing upon her, Let us not Madam, said he,

disguise the matter, I see plainly what a trouble you are in for your late Losses, whereof I have so great a Resentment, that I wou'd readily Sacrifice all I am worth in the whole World, to bring you out on't : Ah ! Madam, how happy shou'd I be, cou'd you but imagin how pleasant those Services are to a Lover, which he pays to his Mistress ; be pleas'd, said the Marquis, pulling a Bag from under his Cloak , and throwing it upon the Bed, to accept of these Twelve hundred *Louis d'ors* for your present occasions ; I have still a Foond left to set up the Bank again, which I intend to venture. We have had an ill run long enough, and may now reasonably hope for a turn ; yet shou'd we loose this Foond, I can find Credit for another ; upon the

inly the whole matter, I'm resolv'd,
 for tho' I hazard every Farthing I
 am worth in the World, to try
 to change your Luck. But a-
 las ! Madam, while there is not
 any thing I wou'd not do to
 serve you, may not I hope you
 will do something for my sake ?
 you cannot be insensible how
 long, and with how violent a
 Passion I have ador'd you, tho'
 to this minute I never met with
 the least return of any thing,
 but Scorn and Cruelty ; How
 many severe shocking things
 have you said to me ? How little
 Inclination had you ever to any
 thing I propos'd ? and how un-
 mov'd have you ever been at the
 Torments I endur'd for your sake ?
 And now, Madam, my Passion
 is grown to that height, that
 without some undeniable Proofs
 of your Love to me, 'tis impos-

sible I shou'd live any longer.
 Well then Marquis, said Madam
Landroze, fetching a great sigh,
 since it must be so, I will now freely
 own the Passion I have for you,
 which hitherto, (for some private
 Reasons best known to my self)
 I have thought fit to conceal ; yes Marquis I do love
 you, and that too a thousand
 times more than you do me.
 Do you love me, Madam, reply'd
 the Marquis, interrupting her ?
 and yet have treated me all this
 while with so much Cruelty and
 Disdain ? Call you that Love ? if,
 Madam, you would make me
 believe you love me, turn all your
 Frowns into Smiles, and let a
 thousand unspeakable Joys
 make amends for those many
 Torments I have so long in-
 dur'd ; a Reservedness to those
 we love, argues a great coldness

aup

and indifference in our Love ; let your care in omitting no Opportunity of doing me a Favour be an Argument of your Love, and to make it unquestionable ; let its violence appear in somemore than ordinary Attempt. What, Monsieur Marquiss, reply'd Madam *Landroze*, wou'd you have me grant your request, the very minute I've receiv'd the Obligations from you? No ! no ! my Love is too real ever to express it self in an Act of Kindness, that looks more like paying a Debt, then the free gift of a generous Passion ; 'tis my Heart you desire, let her alone then, freely to dispense her Favours according to the Dictates of her own Inclinations, and after a little Patience, you will have no reason to complain. Oh ! ingrateful, continued Madam *Landroze*,

droze, you reproach me with my being severe and rigid to you, when alas 'twas the Natural result of that great Love I bore you. Yes (since 'tis to no purpose to conceal it any longer) I protest ingenuously to you, when ever I fancied you did any thing that did not answer those tender Thoughts I hoped you had for me, I fell into a Rage so beyond all Reason, that I hardly knew what I did : Alas ! you little think how much you were oblig'd to me, for even then, when in my Looks and Actions there appear'd the greatest disdain, I ador'd you from the bottom of my Hart, and felt an inward concern for you, which till that instant I was a Stranger to. I set my self to study your Humour, and found the only way to secure your Heart to me,

was

was to keep it in a perpetual Motion ; for, if at any time it had nothing further to desire, it began to grow cold and abate much of its fondness, the loss whereof I so dreaded, that there was not any desperate Remedy in the World I wou'd not make use of to prevent it. Ah ! did you but know how many Tears and Sighs, that affected Coiness and Scorn, I shew'd, has constantly cost me, how wou'd you, instead of upbraiding me with it, have thought your self oblig'd to have pittied me. But oh ! Words are too weak symptoms of a bleeding Heart, that is ever attended with more violent ones ; here then, I give my self up to your Desires, do with me as you think fit ; Inhuman Creditor ! pay your self, come, Cruel, as thou art ! Why dost thou stand off ? then looking

looking languishing on him with Tears in her Eyes, she threw her self at his Feet ; Pardon said she, pardon, my dear Marquiss, I am sensible you have too much Honour to use any force, and if I refuse you at present, impute it only to the struglings of a disabled Virtue, just yielding to the power of Love.

Just as she had said these Words, the Chevalier *Brierie* came into the Room, and found her at the Marquiss's Feet ; but she hearing some body tread very softly behind her, and perceiving in the Glass just opposite to her, that 'twas the Chevalier, continued still at the Marquiss's Feet, and seeming as tho' she had not seen the Chevalier, immediately turn'd the Discourse in this manner. No ! Sir, No, I'm resolv'd never to rise from this Posture,

ture, till you have promis'd me
not to fight with my Brother.
I ask you a thousand Pardons for
whatever he has said to you, he's
a passionate hot-brain'd Fellow,
and grown desperate to find him-
self oblig'd to repay me the Mo-
ney I lent him. As she was say-
ing these Words, she turn'd her
Head about to the Chevalier on a
sudden, seeming to wonder what
noise she heard ; then, as tho'
surpris'd to see him there, she
started up on a sudden, having
first wink'd upon the Marquis to
withdraw , which accordingly
he did, but in so great a hurry
and confusion, at what had late-
ly befallen him, that he had much
a-do to find his way home. Ah !
dear Chevalier, said Madam Lan-
droze very heavily, I am undone,
I am the most unfortunate Crea-
ture on Earth, if you don't take
pity

pity on me ; for the love of God
use all the interest you have with
the Marquis not to fight with
my Brother ; but Oh ! that
thoughtful and reserv'd Look,
which he went away with, has
dash'd all my hopes, for I have
ever observ'd it to be the surest
sign of a revengeful Temper.
Feigning at last to come to her
self she told the Chevalier
'twou'd have done her a great
kindness, had he hapen'd to come
but a Minute sooner ; that having
lost her Money at *Bassett*, she
was forc'd to dun her Brother for
what he ow'd her ; who there-
upon brought her that Bag which
he saw upon the Bed, shewing
him that which the Marquis
laid there that her Brother fell
very severe upon her for playing
at *Bassett*, which kept her al-
ways at home, that she was
peek'd

peek'd at it, and so they came to high Words, that in the heat of the Dispute the Marquis very unfortunately came in, and offer'd to take her part ; at which her Brother was so incens'd, that they fell to Words, and in the Passion they were in, but for the respect the Marquis had to her, they had drawn upon each other in her Chamber ; that her Brother went out first threatening the Marquis, that she had done all she cou'd to prevent the Marquis from following him ; yet that she was still in a perpetual fright of what might ensue hereupon. The Chevalier with all his cunning was caught in the Trap, and being naturally impatient, after having promis'd to do her what Service he cou'd in this matter, he immediately took his leave of her. He understood

derstood at the Lodgings, where Madam *Landroze's* Brother lay, that he went out in the Morning early, and had not dined at home ; as for the Marquis he was but just gone to bed, and had left word if any body came he was not to be spoken with. This confirm'd the Chevalier in what Madam *Landroze* had just before told him, and made him try to prevent the mischief which he thought he luckily foresaw. The Marquis tho in Bed, as they told the Chevalier, was so far from being asleep, that 'tis not to be imagin'd, how restless and distracted his Thoughts were ; when he reflected upon those tender and passionate Expressions wherewith Madam *Landroze* had lately Entertain'd him, he was Transported with Joy even to a degree

gree of Madness. What, said he to himself, does Madam *Landroze* love me, and conceal it only to preserve me more constant to her ? Is it possible that all those Cruelties I've indur'd from her, shou'd be only the Effects of a melancholy Apprehension, least I did not love her so passionately as she cou'd wish ? Yes ! yes ! neither the loss of Reputation, or fear of what might happen, cou'd with-hold her from giving her self up to me to do what I wou'd with her ; 'tis I only that am a trouble to her, least what ever she does for me, I shou'd impute rather to Design, than the free Motives of a disinterested Love. Fear nothing, continued he, shall I ruin your Reputation, shall I, that have so great an Adoration for you, expose you to the violent Prosecutions, and.

and fury of a Jealous Husband ?
 No ! no ! I renounce the
 Thoughts of any pleasure that
 you must purchase at so dear a
 rate ; the enjoyment of your
 Heart is all I ask, and 'tis that,
 and only that can make me the
 happiest or unhappiest Man
 breathing. Then again, falling
 headlong from that high Rap-
 ture into a deep Melancholy,
 What, said he, what have I done,
 to deserve so much kindness from
 her ? Is it by Treachery, Cruel-
 ty, and Cheating ? What to
 have betray'd her basely, to have
 been so cruel as to make her
 loose her Money, to have seen
 her so reduc'd as to sell her
 Jewels, Plate, and Furniture, to
 have stood unmoved at her
 greatest Despair, to have plaid
 the Pick-pocket, and hired Peo-
 ple to assist me in cheating her ?

Are

Are these the Stratagems to conquer Hearts ? thus, and much more than can be express'd, did the Marquis rave all Night ? When he had call'd to mind that he had suffer'd Madam *Landroze* to throw her self at his Feet, he was almost distracted, and call'd himself an unmannerly Brute ; when he consider'd the Chevalier *Brierie* had surprized him in this Posture, and over-heard what he said, he was so confounded that he knew not what to think ; he cou'd not imagin what Madam *Landroze* meant by desiring him not to fight with her Brother ; and how she came off with the Chevalier ; and what troubled him yet more, was, that he had taken notice how very observant the Chevalier us'd to be to Madam *Landroze*, which made him think he loved

loved her, and mistrust least his Rival, by telling her how she had been cheated, shou'd ruin his Interest with her to all Intentions and Purposes ; thereupon he thought the safest way wou'd be to begin first, and throw himself at her Feet, in hopes to merit his Pardon by a voluntary confession of the Crime : He thought the Night very tedious, and waited for Day with great impatience to execute his Design ; at last the Hour of seeing Madam *Landroze* being come, he was in haste to be going, but just as he got to the Door, he found some of the Guards there, which a Marshal of *France* had sent ; 'tis not to be imagin'd, how wonderfully troubled and surprized he was at so strange a disappointment ; he sent presently for the Count *de Charlois* to unfold

fold this Mystery to him. The Count understood by his Friend the Marshal of *France*, who sent 'em, that the Chevalier *Brierie* had informed him of a Duel that was to be fought by the Marquis of *Rozeirs*, and Monsieur de *Lisle*, Brother to Madam *Landroze*, upon a Quarrel that hap-
ned lately betwixt 'em. There-
upon he went to the Chevalier,
who told him how he had found
Madam *Landroze* at the Maquis's
Feet, and all that she had said to
him. The Count returning to
the Marquis complain'd of his
unkindness in not acquainting
him with the late business be-
twixt him and *Lisle*. The Mar-
quis, who did not then call to
mind that *Lisle* was Madam *Lan-
droze's* Brother, and what she
had said to him upon the Che-
valier's surprizing her at his
Feet,

Feet, protested to him with a thousand solemn Imprecations, he was so far from having had any late dispute with *Lisle*, as that he had not either spoken to, or so much as seen him this Twelvemonth. If what you say be true, reply'd the Count, either the Chevalier is the greatest Impostor, or Madam *Landroze* the most deceitful and designing Woman alive. Afterwards the Marquis, as he was telling him of some particular Passages that happen'd the day before at her House, began to remember, how upon the Chevalier's surprizing her at his Feet, she intreated him not to fight with her Brother, and made signs to him to withdraw ; which accordingly he did, leaving the Chevalier with her all alone : This made him sensible of the Truth of what

what had been told him, and considering how serviceable the Count might be to him on this occasion, he told him ingeniously every particular Circumstance of the whole Affair, and desir'd his advice and assistance therein. Forthwith the Count went to the Chevalier, assuring him the business was made up, and that 'twas for Madam *Landroze's* Credit that it shou'd not take Air ; so they went together to testify the same to the Marshal of *France*, and to get an Order for recalling the Guards. This order came very opportunely, for they who were sent to serve *Lisle* had not as yet been with him ; but staying to drink a Glass of Wine at a Tavern next Door to his Lodgings, there they received the Countermand. The Marquis of *Roziers* was in a continual

tinual fright at what Madam *Landroze's* Brother wou'd think of the matter, and the great prejudice it might be to her Reputation. As soon as the Count *de Charlois* had brought him an account of the happy success of his Negotiation, he fell into a Discourse about Madam *Londroze's* death : Marquis, said the Count, where was your Wit to loose so fair an opportunity ? Troth, I know not what to make of you, thou hast lost thy self in her Opinion beyond all hope of recovery ; for let me tell thee, all such faults are unpardonable with Women. Is it possible thou shouldest come to this Age, and not know that Women use such little Tricks, only to decoy and bring Men on with greater eagerness, Count, reply'd the Marquis very briskly,

ly, if you knew Madam *Lan-*
droze you'd be of another mind.
 She's all Truth, of a tender Dis-
 position, Generous, uncapable of
 any little Trick, and endued
 with a thousand other extraor-
 dinary Accomplishments, which
 a few other Women cou'd ever
 pretend to ; nay I know her
 Temper so well, that she can
 least defend her self against that
 way of Courtship I have always
 used to her : I have ever sacri-
 ficed my Will to her Interest and
 Pleasure, whereby she is assured
 how much I love her better
 than my own Life ; 'Tis suffi-
 cient to secure her to me as long
 as she lives. Alas ! Marquiss,
 said the Count, shrugging up his
 Shoulders, you'll never do any
 great Feats amongst the Women ;
 the way, continued he, to have

gain'd Madam *Landroze*, and kept her sure to you, as long as you'd a mind to't, had been to have made use of the opportunity she gave you ; 'tis by that, as by some secret Charm, a Man gets so great an ascendancy over a Womans mind, that she can deny him nothing, humours him in all things, falls out with the whole World in his Cause is careless of her carriage to her Husband, or the concerns of her Family, values not her Reputation : In fine, if her Gallant be but a bold experienc'd Sinner she enters in without the least reluctance, and stops at no Crime tho never so execrable What you say Count, reply'd the Marquis, is very true of lewd debauch'd Women, and such as have lost all fence of Reputation

on

on ; but all Women are not under such Circumstances, and Madam *Landroze*, of whom we were speaking, least of any Woman in all *France*. Once more, reply'd the Count, I must needs tell you, I find you do not know the Sex ; there are hardly any, and especially Madam *Landroze*, but what are Fantastical in their Amours ; they suffer themselves to be hurried away I know not how : When ever they love or hate, they can give no Reason for either, but are equally inclin'd to both by a whimsical and unaccountable Humour ; they are true to nothing, but their Interest, or when they want an Opportunity to be false ; they are naturally Coquets, and their affected Virtue is nothing but a Cloak to their Coquettry.

They have design in all they say or do ; but above all Tears are the Masterpiece of their Cunning, and the surest Baits to catch the wariest Cudgeons. Though I, continued the Count, desir even those, as well as all others, and what I now tell you, I have either had experience of, or observed in most Women. I have known 'em leave very worthy deserving Persons, whom they once had a great kindness for, and who have had no less for them, to take up with pittiful unconsiderable Fellows : Sometimes because they either danc'd or sung well ; sometimes being dazled with the glittering of a rich Embroidred Coat, a well fancied Equipage, or a hundred other such fantastical Reasons. One day a married Woman, lamenting

menting the loss of her Lover, who was kill'd in the War, said to me, Alas ! poor Youth, how lovely he was, and how dearly he lov'd me ? How often have we ran the Balls together ? How often has he carried me to Plays ? then fetching a deep Sigh, Oh ! unfortunate Wretch , said she, that I am ! Farewel Balls, farewel Plays, they are all over with me, for who is there now that will carry me to 'em ? No ! no ! I shall never see any more. Another time a Widow, the very first year of her Mourning, viewing her self in the Glass, said to me (as I was standing by) with Tears in her Eyes, Ah ! Sir, what a loss have I had of my Husband ? At which I began seriously to Comfort her : Comfort, reply'd she sighing, talk

D 3 not

not to me of Comfort ; see what an ill Air this Bandore has, how frightful this plain Lining makes me appear ? What Man will endure now to look upon me ? when I han't patience to see my self in the Glass ?

But to say no more of other Women, let's come to Madam Landroze. What think you of the Artifice she used to blind the Chevalier, of the Reason why he found her at your Feet ? For my part, I think it a Masterpeice to see a come-off, so well contriv'd, and acted so to the Life on a sudden. Well ! well ! Count, reply'd the Marquis, let's have no more on't, you have said enough, and I verily believe you are so great a Woman hater , that, shou'd I let you run on, you'd reap

reap up the Story of the *Ephesian*
 Matron. 'tis not in this, con-
 tinu'd he, I ask your advice, but
 what I shou'd do with Madam
Landroze, as to the Moneys I
 made her loose, for I have still
 in my Hands above Eight hun-
 dred *Loüis d'ors* of hers, over
 and above the Twelve hundred
 I left with her that day the
 Chevalier found her upon her
 Knees. He told him he thought
 he had great reason to distrust
 the Chevalier, that he was in a
 continual fright, least he shou'd
 betray him in making a discove-
 ry to Madam *Landroze*, which
 wou'd ruin him in her Opinion
 to all Intents and Purposes ;
 that he had thoughts to prevent
 it by restoring to her what Mo-
 ney he had of hers, and ma-
 king an open Confession of the

D 4 whole

whole matter, in hopes she may pardon it as the rash Act of a violent Passion. The Count was of another mind, he maintain'd there was no Reason to distrust the Chevalier, that such a Confession can never take with Madam *Landroze*, who will infallibly look upon the whole design to be no better than a down-right Cheat, that the better way were, to let her win it back again the same way she lost it ; that if he was in haste to have it done, he might make a match to taillée at her House to day, that he shou'd return the Money to the same Persons that won it before, and appoint 'em to be there on purpose to loose it back again, by which means they will see plainly, he did not design Cheating,

ting ; and shou'd the Chevalier chance to speak on't, as he mistrusted, the Event was sufficient to justifie the A^t. Besides, said he, if the Town should come to talk of a Quarrel between you and Madam *Landroze's* Brother, when they see you Tallying at her House, 'twill be look't upon as an idle Report, and soon be forgotten. The Marquis approved of what was said. The Count went to the Chevalier, and the other Persons who were to loose the Money, to acquaint 'em with the design, and give 'em the Money, with all Orders necessary thereunto. Then he gave notice to several other Gamesters that there would be *Bassett* at Madam *Landroze's* about Six of the Clock. As for the Marquis he

went to Madam *Landroze's*, and told her what the Chevalier had said to the Marshal of *France*, how they sent some of the Guards to him, and what had hapen'd thereupon. Afterwards he proposed to her the taillying at her House about Six of the Clock : She desir'd nothing more then to play, and was only troubled that they did not begin two Hours sooner.

There chanc't to be a great deal of good Company there that day, who design'd to play deep : But just as the Marquiss had drawn out the Bank money, in order to *Talliée*, and the Setters made choice of their Cards, they heard a great noise in the Street, they saw a publick Officer with a Trumpet before him, and a piece of Parchment

nd ment in his Hand, in the midſt
 ad of a great crow'd, and heard
 ce, him pronounce the Word *Baffett*
 he several times, but cou'd make
 ad nothing of what he said. Mean
 ds while the Company being
 ng greatly puzzl'd to know the
 ne meaning on't, in came an Old
 re Gentleman, Husband to a young
 b- Lady who was then present,
 ro and had ſet ſeveral *Louis d'ors*
 ut upon a Card : With great Joy
 ve in his Looks, he told 'em, it was
 s- an Order of Council to forbide
 D *Baffett*; then looking a little
 r- angrily, he commanded his
 e- Wife not to play; ſhe laught
 - at him, and the more he forbide
 - her, the more pressing ſhe was
 - with the Marquiss to deal on:
 - The Penalty of the Order, ſaid
 - he, is Five hundred *Livres*, for-
 - feiture upon every one that
 - plays,

plays, Three thousand upon him that keeps the Bank, and the House where they play to be shut up. This perplex'd and madded all the Company. Madam *Landroze* was for rallying it off, and said, she liked the Company too well to shut her Doors against 'em. The Marquis was loath to incur the Forfeiture of Three thousand *Livres*. The Chevalier, enraged at the Order, was very positive, and offer'd to lay Five hundred *Louis d'ors*, one might safely play the rest of that day; however there being few of his Mind, they broke up and went away without it. As they were going off, he endeavour'd to perswade 'em to come back, but finding it to no purpose, told 'em, that the forbidding *Bassett* was of a mighty

mighty consequence, which he was desirous to communicate to 'em, and therefore invited 'em all to Supper. The Ladies, and all those Gentlemen who were Strangers to the Chevalier, thank'd him for his Invitation, and went away, while such as were his Friends and Acquaintance, went along with him to the *Petit-Paris*, where he bespoke a Supper. The Marquis promis'd the Chevalier to be there as soon as he. In the mean time, as the Company were taking their leaves, he counted over his Money, and put Eight hundred *Louis d'ors* in a Purse by it self. Then finding himself alone with Madam *Landroze*, he offer'd her the Purse, in which the Eight hundred *Louis d'ors* were, confessing the whole

whole Cheat, in hopes she wou'd pardon him, and look upon't as the excess of Love. While he was speaking, Madam *Landroze* turn'd sometimes pale, sometimes red, and chang'd Col-lour above a hundred times. What, said she, to him, reaching out her Hand to take the Purse, is it possible? and are these Eight hundred *Louis d'ors*, and the Twelve hundred you left here yesterday, my own? Which the Marquis assuring her: Well, said she to him, you are a Man of Honour, and I forgive you freely; in full assurance whereof, as likewise how much I look upon my self to be interested in any thing that concerns you, I will make you an intire Confident in all my Thoughts. Ah! Madam, said the Marquis, in-
terrupting

terrupting her, how good and how obliging you are, and how sensible am I of it; nay further, continued she, I'll give you advice which makes against my self, and if you're wise you'll follow it: but for fear any body shou'd come in, and surprize me with this Purse in my Hand, let me go lock it in my Cabinet: which accordingly she did, and being come back again; Troth, Marquiss, said she, I had a narrow escape yesterday, for my ill Fortune at play had reduced me to so great an Extremity, that I protest I had not the power to deny you any thing you cou'd ask me: But thanks to Providence, and my own little Cunning, I am now safe deli-ver'd. But withal, Sir, continued she, I must needs say you have

have not lost much by't ; for whatever you had done with my Person, I had from my very Heart detested the Action, and lookt upon it only as a hard Ransom, to Redeem me out of that Slavery whereinto my late Losses had unfortunately thrown me. Know Marquis that my Affections are otherwise engag'd, and that too, to the most ungrateful Man breathing, one, who once had, or at least counterfeited a strong Passion for me ; and oh ! if 'twas counterfeited, 'twas done to the Life ; one, who has a thousand times fworn to love me as long as he liv'd : However the Traytor has proved false, and what is yet worse, Falshood has been so far from curing me of my Love, that it has rather increas'd it
the

the more. Once when I upbraided him with his Ingratitude, and beg'd him to return to the Passion he formerly had for me ; Cou'd I, said he, Ah ! Madam, how gladly would I do't ? Can there be a greater Happiness in the World, than that of loving where one is belov'd ; but we are not so much Masters of our own Hearts, I value you above any Person breathing, and wou'd readily sacrifice my Life and Fortune to your Service ; but I beg you not to exact the Tribute of a Heart which is not in my own power to dispose of : A hundred, and a hundred times have I call'd my self perjur'd and ingrateful, and blush'd at the shame of so infamous a Character ; but how in vain are all such Attacks, upon a Heart resolv'd

solv'd never to surrender ? I thought this Discourse so very ridiculous, that I broke off with my Faithless Lover, and forbid him from ever more coming near me ; and yet Marquis, 'tis but too great a Truth, and what I have experimented upon you, that the Heart is a head strong Libertine, that will love only where it pleases. How often have I, to the most advantage that cou'd be, reminded my self of the great Obligations I owe you, of your high Merit, and Passionate Affections for me, with frequent Suggestions to my self, how happy I shou'd be in your Love, cou'd I but love you again ? I endeavour'd by such gentle Stratagems as these, to surprize my Heart, and make it come over to

to you, till having by degrees got a Habit of loving you, it shou'd declare for you against that perfidious Man your Rival : but so successless were all those Stratagems, that they recoyld upon me, and what ever my Reason made use of to strengthen your interest, my Heart insensibly turn'd to the advantage of that ingrateful Man. Judge now what endeavours ~~we~~ used to perswade my self to love you, and to how little purpose they have all been : 'Tis not Choice or Reason that governs the Heart, but being byass'd by it knows not what, it suffers it self to be hurried away with an unaccountable Pleasure, to it knows not whither, or wherefore ; and so strangely contradictory, is the Temper of those

those who are in Love, that they fondly pursue their Tormentors, and fly from those that would make 'em Happy. Oh ! Cruelty, reply'd the Marquis, interrupting her, is it not enough to tell me you don't love me, but that I have a Rival whom you do love ? Well Marquis, said she, since 'tis so, let us try in some measure to alleviate the security of our Fates, you by endeavouring to wean your self from me, and I by studying to forget your Rival; since to love, and not be loved again, is certainly the greatest Plague upon Earth. For Heavens sake, Madam, reply'd the Marquis, teach me the Secret to forget you, 'tis all the Reward I ask, of whatever I have endur'd for you.

There

There is a never failing one, said she, which is never to see me more, and leave the rest to time. Never to see you more, Madam, reply'd the Marquis, to spend Hours, Days, Months, nay Years without seeing you, or so much as ever hoping to see you more ; Ah ! what a Cruel Remedy you tell me of, will time, do you say, work the rest : Alas ! how slow, and weak a Cure is Time, for so violent a Distemper.

Just as the Marquis had said this, in came the Chevalier, and told him Supper was ready, and that the Company staid for him ; though the Marquis had a great deal more to say to Madam *Landroze*, yet he was forc'd for that time to take his leave of her ; which he did with
so

so much concern, that he cou'd scarce hide it from the Chevalier : When he was come to the place where they were to sup, he told those Persons whom he had engaged in the design against Madam *Landroze*, that he had restor'd her all the Money they had won of her, and turn'd it off with a Jest. Whereupon they gave him the Eight hundred *Loëis d'ors*, which the Count *Charlois* had given them.

Supper being upon the Table, and all the Company going to sit down, the Chevalier told 'em he had a matter of great importance to impart to 'em, of which it was highly necessary that every one should give his Opinion ; that most Voices shou'd carry't : in order whereunto

unto they shou'd chuse a President to count 'em, but not begin the Debate till the Fruit was upon the Table, and in the mean time to consider well of the choice. Several Healths went round briskly, at last the Fruit being set on, the Chevalier ask'd the Company if they had thought of a President, whereat they all, with one Voice, cry'd out they had made Choice of him. Immediately the Chevalier putting on as Grave and Magesterial a Look, as tho' he were President of the Council, open'd the Sessions in this manner, The defence of *Bassett*, Sirs, is to be the Subject of our present Debate, and we, being the chief Gamesters, whatever Rule we make herein, will be binding to others;

thers ; wherefore I desire every particular Person may give his advice in this weighty Affair deliberately, and without any prejudice. The first thing then to be consider'd of is, Whether 'tis most for our advantage to play at *Bassett* or not ? And if to play, then secondly, What is to be done to avoid the Order which was this day Proclaimed to the contrary ? Begin Monsieur l^e Abbé, said the Chevalier, addressing himself to the Abbé Olarion, you, whom the World has honour'd with the Glorious Title of Clerk of the Bassett Table : For my part, Sir, said the Abbé, I'm of Opinion the whole Company has reason to keep up *Bassett*, I've ever found it turn to good Account, and that the Bank must be the only

only Winner at long run. 'Tis true that *Bassett* is an ill Game for the Setters, but we that are here present, have not so little Wit, as to do any thing but go in the Bank. 'Tis not, continued he smiling, but with great labour and pains that I have purchas'd that Glorious Title of Clerk of the *Bassett* Table; having crouppied ^{up} day after day, to several Banks from two of the Clock after Dinner, till Eight at night, and so from Nine till One of the Clock the next Morning: Now I leave it to you to consider, how strong a Head a Man must have to undergo so great a Fateigue. The first Point, which is, whether 'tis most for our advantage to play at *Bassett*, being thus dear'd, & come now to the Second,

cond, *viz.* How we may play at it without any danger. This I must confess does a little grieve me. There is no Pleasure in being made an Example. At first they will be very strict in putting the Law in Execution: in my judgment therefore, 'tis not safe to oppose them in the heat of their first Resolutions, but wait with patience till better days, which cann't but be ere long, for *Bassett* is too bewitching a Game, not to draw many of the Nobility and other Persons of Quality in to play at it, which will serve for a President to us; and this in short is what I think of the whole Matter.

Come thou Reverend Judge of *Bassett*, says the Chevalier, thou to whose infallible Decision

cission all difficult and controversial Points of *Bassett* are submitted with an implicit Faith, let's hear what you say. I, said *Chatigny*, am of *Abbé Olarion's* Opinion, but cou'd wish that in the mean time some Expedient might be found out of playing in some Noble Mens or Ambassadors Houses, and that sometimes we may have private *Bassett* in our Chambers to keep us in breath. What think you, Noble Captain, says the Chevalier, you, that as the Town will have it, have been so unfortunate at this Game. I, said the Captain, for my part, have been so provok'd with *Bassett*, that I wish him hang'd who first found it out. Before this Game came up, I and some others that un-

derstood play pretty well, cou'd now and then pick up a little Money, and strip a well feather'd Bubble without any noise. But now *Bassett* has so engross'd the whole Trade, that there is nothing to be got for us poor Brothers of the Die. Now Monsieur Marquis, said the Chevalier, addressing himself to the Marquis of *Roziers*, 'tis your turn to speak. The Marquis, rouzing himself as one just awak'd out of a dead sleep, stair'd upon the Chevalier with such amazement, that the Chevalier saw plainly he knew not what they had been talking of. The Question, said the Chevalier, is whether or no it be for our advantage to play at *Bassett*? The Marquis pausing a while, Never, said he,

came

came any good of *Bassett*, since it came into *France*, therefore in my Judgment it ought to be banish'd for ever. But I must beg you will excuse me, and impute it to an odd whim I have, that I don't give you my Reasons for it. I'll do't for you, said *Bautrin*, taking up the Question. In Hell it self, said he; never was hatch'd so damnable a thing as *Bassett*. Thereupon the whole Company burst out into a great laughter, and cry'd he was not an Impartial Judge, having a Mortal peek to *Bassett*, for making him walk a foot. Think not, Sirs, reply'd he, that what I now say is out of madness for loosing my Coach and Horses; I am equally unlucky at all sorts of Games, and had I not lost 'em at *Bassett*, I had done it

at some other Game; so that the exception I have to Bassett, is not from what I have suffer'd, but those general Extravagancies and mischiefs that attend it. At all other Games one has time to consider, and by reflecting upon his Losses and the Consequence thereof, to leave off; but in this there is no being govern'd by Reason, or any time to reflect; it runs away with so much quickness. One fancies to make the *Paroli*, or *Sept et levée*, which hapening to win, the success thereof draws him in to venture all he has, or can rap and rend, in hopes of the like good Fortune, till at last he loses all, and runs himself over head and ears in as short atime as I've been speaking. There's the Duce, says another, has lost thrice

thrice already, 'tis strange if it shou'd loose the fourth time; so thinking to have found out a sure Card, in full confidence of winning, he sets all he has left upon it, which is fass'd, or loses the *Sonica*. Then how he storms, and rages, and borrowing all the Money he can of every body, to follow the Duce on, he looses it (if he wou'd confess) four times the deal following.

Next day, without fail, he must seek out for Money to pay what he borrowed the Night before, and wherewithal to have his Revenge. Then the Cloaths, Jewels, and what ever Moveables he has, go to pawn, and so he has it, he cares not what Procuration or Interest he gives. With what fear, and concern, with

what impatience, and palpitation of the Heart, does he watch the Cards as the Dealer is drawing 'em, especially if he sees the corner of a Card which looks like his : Nay, I'll maintain Bassett does tire and wast the Spirits of those who play deep, more then any other Game, even *Tennis* it self ; for which Reasons the Physicians do strictly forbid it to all those who are inclined to Consumptions. I have seen Women naturally of a pale Complexion, redden like Fire, and Men in the midst of the hardest Frosts sweat as though they were in a Bagnio. *Avalon*, whom ye all know, in the height of his Fever, said, *Va ten Pistols*, a Minute after the *Pay*, then the double *Pay*, a *Paroli* of the whole,

whole, continued he, in a great Agony, and on a sudden, raising his Voice, cry'd out, like one in Despair, Oh ! unfortunate Creature that I am ! to loose the *Sonica* ; insomuch that 'twas fear'd least those light-headed Fits shou'd turn to a perfect Frenzie ; and but for his able Physician Dr. Pyard, who (knowing he had lost much at *Bassett*) advis'd him to send for some Gamesters to play by his Bed side, who came and lost to him some Money, which to that purpose his Mother had given 'em , the unfortunate Youth might have spent the rest of his Days in Bedlam.

These are the least of those many Evils that *Bassett* is the cause of. Young Gentlemen design'd for the Clergy, or the

Law, who, till *Baffett* came in, never knew what Gameing was, now lay aside the thoughts of their other Studies, and apply themselves wholly to the finding out some little Tricks and Advantages of the Game, or how to take up Money at a Scriveners; who upon mighty advantages supplies 'em with great summs. The Merchants, Perry-wig makers, Taylors, Hatters, Mercers, or Lace-men, can't get a Farthing of Money from a *Baffett*-player; his Purse is intirely devoted to the Bank, and to be put to no other use. Upon the whole mattter, there are none but the Usurers, and Pawn-brokers, but what loose by't. Let a Woman be never so discreet, or virtuous, if she has once tasted of the powerful Charms

Charms of Bassett, she can never wean her self from it : if she wants Money, she must have it one way or other, and when she has no other Remedy, she borrows it of her Lover, who, after that, is so far from finding her Cruel, that she will gratifie him with many Favours, which she won't vouchsafe to the poor Man her Husband. That 'tis a certain Gain to those who keep the Bank, said the *Abbé Olarion*, is apparent from their having always won. Fie ! reply'd Baumrain, I never dealt in my Life, but I lost : and there was a Lady of *Liste*, one of my particular Acquaintance, who in three Weeks time, by dealing at Six-penny Bassett, lost Three thousand Livers clear. You shall

see what I mean.

shall have a Man, when he has been stuck at play, come to a small Bank, and set a Hundred or Sixscore *Louis d'ors* upon a Card. The Bank upon a Puntillio of Honour stands it, the Setter winning it, makes the *Paroli*, and wins that too, so breaks the Bank, and at one Bout wins the whole Profit of three Month's ^{time} ~~time~~ Twas so that Madam *Fontaigne* Bank was broke.

To conclude, the Council is wise, and had not forbid *Bassett* but for the great Disorders it occasion'd at *Paris*, and for our common Good. They have the power in their Hands, and must not be disobey'd ; the fatal Consequences whereof, are in my Opinion too dangerous to be ventur'd. Scarce had *Bautrain* done

done speaking, when *Viffon* taking up the Question, 'Tis observable, Sirs, said he, that the most refined things in Morality, and the best in Nature, do, when used with excess, prove the worst and most dangerous. No Game that ever yet was invented is comparable to *Bassett*, if play'd at with moderation and temper, nor any so pernicious when us'd to excess. The design of Gaming, is to amuze the Mind with the various and extraordinary changes of Fortune, just as *Bassett* does : for a Proof whereof you need but call to mind what Monsieur *Bautrain* said. A Setter, said he, looks upon himself to be upon the Point of being made a Beggar, his luck changes, a *Sept-et-le-vu* comes and makes him

him a Prince. Can any thing be more surprizing? Can any thing be more transporting? Have you occasion for Ten or Twelve Pistols to throw away upon any Divertisement, go to the *Bassett* Table, and as soon as ever you have won 'em, take your own time to come away; no body will press you to play on, no body will call after you, and you may go off with 'em without being counted a close sharking Gamester; a freedom that is the peculiar Excellency of this Game, and not allow'd of in any other. When at any time any of us are ill treated by our cruel Mistresses, we take advantage of the Extremities to which *Bassett* reduces 'em, to subdue 'em to our Affections: Is not this a great relief to a wretched Lover

Lover, who has spent Days and Nights in Sighs and Prayers, without obtaining the least Favour? *Hazard*, *Quinque-nove*, or *Lansquenet*, may produce as bad Effects, and are as quick desperate Games as *Bassett*; besides, a *Bassett* player has great advantage over all other Gamesters, he goes boldly into the Company of Persons of the best Quality, and is well lookt upon: If he talliees, he is much made of, and all the Servants of the House are particularly observant to him. 'Tis true, there is an Order to forbid it, the best way therefore is to address to the King, and represent to him that *Bassett* does not so much hurt at *Paris*, as his Majesty is inform'd, and so make an interest to have leave to keep a Bank: for my part

part I'll make one willingly, and allow 80000 *Livres* yearly towards it for my own share. This, Gentlemen, is my Opinion. *Uliffon* having made an end, the Chevalier undertaking to speak to't, said, This appears to me, Sirs, to be a matter of great difficulty; for, that 'tis of mighty advantage to keep the Bank at *Bassett*, is so undeniable a Truth, that 'twere needless to use any Arguments to prove how prejudical this Order to forbid *Bassett* has been to us sworn Keepers of the Bank. The Point now to be consider'd of is, how we may continue to play at it without running into any danger; a matter of so great difficulty, that the more and more I think on't, the further

I am from finding out which way it may be done: There is no pleasure I'm sure in being made an Example: to play privately and in a Room that is lock'd up, won't turn to account, or so much as pay for the Cards and Candles : on the other hand 'tis too hazardous to play in Noblemen's or Ambassadors Houses, as they did at *Hoca*, least an Officer shou'd come *incognito*, and under pretence of playing, serve us, to our great comfort, with a Verbal Process for disobeying the Order. And how many poor indigent Fellows are there, who in hopes of having the Fine, will turn Informers. The King and his Ministers are fully satisfied this Game is prejudicial to the Publick, and therefore shou'd we offer to

Farm

Farm it at a Million a year, they wou'd never harken to the Proposal. There is no one here but knows how they have forbid *Hoca*, under so severe Penalties, that tho' 'tis so very advantageous a Game to those who keep the Bank, yet no body dares venture to do it; and so will it be with *Bassett*. Come then, continued he, let us Metamorphose *Bassett* into another Game, let it be much after the manner of *Hoca*; but by giving it another Name, by playing it after a different way, and altering the chances, we may disguise it so that no body can possibly know it, and thereby evade the Penalty of the Order. The first thing to be observ'd, is, that there be one who is to keep the Bank, and to have all the advantages that

that he had at *Baffett*, only changing the Names. Those who formerly found out Games, have neither gam'd more, nor had their Talents lye better that way than ours do : Whereat the whole Company began to laugh, and approving of the Chevaliers Proposal, set themselves to invent some new Game. *Abbe Olarion* was for *Lansquenet*, as 'tis plaide at in *Poland*; *Ulisson* proposed *Prieze*; and the Chevalier *Nombre*, insomuch that they were all divided upon which of these Games was best ; but being now grown very late, they adjourned the Meeting till *Tuesday* next, at the same hour and place ; then and there to consider further of those Matters, and the success of these new Games. Then every one in particular returning

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